



February 11, 2026

Honorable Chairman MacDonald
NH House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1368

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1368. For the record my name is Krysten Evans, and I serve as the Director of Policy for ABLE NH, a statewide disability justice organization that works to protect and expand the civil and human rights of people with disabilities across New Hampshire.

Access to primary care is foundational to health, independence, and community participation. For people with disabilities, it is often the difference between stability and crisis. Yet across New Hampshire, especially in rural and underserved areas, access to primary care is shrinking. Practices are closing, consolidating, or operating on the brink of financial collapse. Independent providers are disappearing, and with them goes continuity of care, choice, and trust.

House Bill 1368 takes a necessary and responsible step by creating a structured, data driven examination of the primary care landscape in our state. Rather than relying on anecdotes or assumptions, this bill directs a legislative committee to gather comprehensive information about provider availability, financial pressures, workforce challenges, and pricing structures. Policy decisions that affect access to care must be informed by real data and real conditions on the ground.

For people with disabilities, these issues are not abstract. Limited access to primary care leads to delayed diagnoses, unmanaged chronic conditions, avoidable emergency room visits, and institutionalization that could have been prevented with timely, community based care. Rural residents with disabilities face compounded barriers, including fewer providers, long travel distances, and a system that too often fails to account for Medicaid participation and the realities of complex care needs.

We are particularly encouraged that this bill examines the impact of reimbursement rates, service pricing, and the financial viability of independent primary care providers. Medicaid is the primary insurer for many people with disabilities. If reimbursement structures do not allow providers to remain viable, patients lose access. This connection must be clearly understood if the legislature

is serious about protecting access to care for those who rely on it most.

House Bill 1368 does not predetermine outcomes. It creates space for thoughtful analysis, stakeholder input, and evidence based recommendations. This is exactly what is needed at this moment. A strong primary care system benefits everyone, but it is especially critical for populations who already face systemic barriers to health care.

ABLE NH urges the committee to support House Bill 1368. Understanding the true state of primary care in New Hampshire is a prerequisite to responsible policymaking and to ensuring that people with disabilities can live healthy, stable lives in their communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I respectfully ask that you vote Ought to Pass.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten M. Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krysten M. Evans
Director of Policy
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